

**REMARKS**

In view of the earlier date of invention of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the present application, Applicants have chosen to remove the Barkhoudarian pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131. Under Rule 131, the Applicants may overcome a prior art rejection by filing an appropriate declaration that establishes invention of the claimed subject matter by the Applicants prior to the effective date of the reference relied upon in the rejection. Prior invention may be shown by proving actual reduction to practice prior to the effective date of the reference.

Accordingly, Applicants submit the enclosed Rule 131 Declarations, signed by the inventors of record, to demonstrate that the invention disclosed and claimed in the present application was conceived and actually reduced to practice prior to the effective date of the Barkhoudarian reference.

The effective date of Barkhoudarian is September 30, 2002. In paragraph 3 of the attached Rule 131 Declarations, the inventors declare that the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the above-referenced application was conceived in the United States, a NAFTA country, or a WTO country at least prior to September 30, 2002. Applicants further submit that Exhibit A in its entirety, along with the corresponding Rule 131 Declarations, is sufficient to demonstrate conception of the claimed subject matter at least prior to September 30, 2002. Specifically, this conception is evidenced by slides 1, 2, 5, 9, and 14 of a PowerPoint presentation relating to “Modified Algorithms based on feed back received from review meeting,” as indicated by slide 1. *See* Rule 131 Declarations, paragraph 3; Exhibit A. These slides generally illustrate and describe systems and methods for monitoring operational parameters of a turbomachine (e.g., on site) via various sensors, identifying anomalies in data received from sensors, and detecting possible rub events. *See id.* Slide 2 is labeled “High Differential Expansion along with High Vibration,” and illustrates and describes monitoring bearing vibration, checking for abnormal amplitude or

variation, and triggering an alarm if an anomaly is observed with the bearing vibration. *See id.* Slide 5 is labeled “High eccentricity following vibration excursion,” and illustrates and describes monitoring or checking for abnormalities associated with vibration or eccentricity, and identifying a possible rub during shut down. *See id.* Slide 9 is labeled “Sudden large shell temperature ramp,” and illustrates and describes monitoring parameters, identifying an abnormal change in steam and shell metal temperature, identifying an abnormal change in vibration, and identifying a possible rub event. *See id.* Slide 14 is labeled “Rub Anomaly Flow Down,” and illustrates and describes various techniques for monitoring and identifying abnormalities to identify a possible rub event. *See id.* In view of the foregoing evidence, the Applicants stress that subject matter disclosed and claimed in the present application was conceived at least prior to the September 30, 2002, effective filing date of Barkhoudarian.

As indicated by paragraph 4 of the attached Rule 131 Declarations, the inventors declare that the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the above-referenced application was actually reduced to practice in the United States, a NAFTA country, or a WTO country at least prior to September 30, 2002. Applicants further submit that Exhibit B in its entirety, along with the corresponding Rule 131 Declarations, is sufficient to demonstrate actual reduction to practice of the claimed subject matter at least prior to September 30, 2002. This actual reduction to practice is evidenced by the Excel graph labeled “Desk Top validation results,” which records successful completion and testing of a prototype of the method and system set forth and claimed in the referenced application at least prior to September 30, 2002. *See* Rule 131 Declarations, paragraph 4; Exhibit B. Specifically, the Excel graph represents data collected while monitoring the operation of a turbomachine, and indicates anomalies that correspond to possible rub events in the turbomachine. *See id.* The Excel graph illustrates variation in speed relative to time and four different alarms indicative of a possible rub event. *See id.* In view of the foregoing evidence, the Applicants stress that subject matter disclosed and claimed in the present application was actually

reduced to practice at least prior to the September 30, 2002, effective filing date of Barkhoudarian.

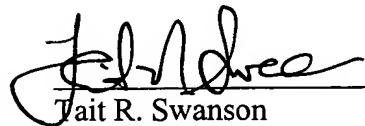
Accordingly, in view of the Applicants' earlier reduction to practice, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove Barkhoudarian from consideration and withdraw all outstanding rejections based on Barkhoudarian. Upon removal of Barkhoudarian, the Applicants stress that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

**Conclusion**

If the Examiner wishes to resolve any issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 19, 2006

  
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